Regional Development News & Notes

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E-Government in NH

According to an E-Government survey conducted by Brown University's Taubman Center for Public Policy, New Hampshire ranked 14th in the nation for services available on-line in 2002. This jump from 48th place last year was the largest movement of all the states.

WEBSTER is the official Web site of the State of New Hampshire www.state.nh.us. Some of the E-government services available on-line include the NHES job match system, professional license renewals, Fish and Game licenses, and the Rideshare commuter matching service.

Features were defined as services if the entire transaction could occur online.   Information services, such as the state's population estimates, road and bridge construction projects information and the unemployment rate available via the Internet were not considered E-government services for this survey.

E-Government Rankings, New England		
State	**2002**	**2001**
Connecticut	4	24
New Hampshire	**14**	**48**
Massachusetts	24	16
Maine	34	14
Rhode Island	35	44
Vermont	42	43

Get Familiar With NAICS

Most of the economic and labor market information published after January 2003 will be based on a new and more flexible industrial coding structure called the **North American Industrial Classification System** (NAICS).   The NAICS definitions will replace the familiar Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system.   The SIC system was based on the types of products produced, and the NAICS structure is *based on the processes used in production*.   The hierarchical structure of the two systems is similar, but the NAICS is a six-digit (as opposed to four-digit for SIC) classification system that allows for greater versatility in coding.

Reasons for the change are two fold: 1) NAFTA requires statistics to be comparable between the USA, Canada and Mexico; and 2) NAICS will allow tracking of emerging technology in the economy that couldn't be captured with the SIC system.   This is important as reliance on technology and services in our economy continues.

Happy Holidays!

Best wishes from the OSP CDBG staff for a wonderful holiday season, and a prosperous & fulfilling New Year!

#8 in a series: Evaluating Grantee Performance (Monitoring) (see CDBG Implementation Guide for more information)

As part of the State's responsibilities for administering the CDBG program, it must certify that activities are conducted in a manner consistent with all applicable federal laws. New Hampshire accomplishes this by monitoring the activities of its grantees. In turn, HUD monitors the State's monitoring. OSP monitoring of grantees happens in two ways:

- **On-site monitoring** is affected by OSP staff primarily to examine grantee files to ensure adequate documentation. Every project will receive at least on formal on-site monitoring visit. If there are findings or concerns, OSP may monitor again at the end of the project.
- **Desk monitoring** is done by OSP staff as a way to stay in touch with project progress, and to catch problems early, before they become BIG problems later. OSP review of required reports from the grantee are also used to monitor project progress and performance.
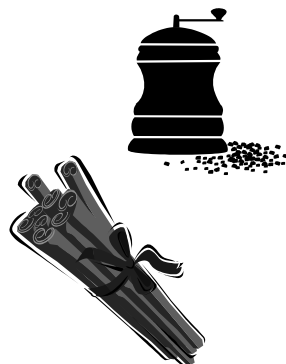

Did You Know?

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)

The top five spices during the winter holidays in the U.S., based on a survey, are, in order: Ground black pepper; ground cinnamon; seasoned salt; garlic powder; and ground nutmeg.

(Lesson: None, really. Just interesting Holiday trivia!)

The frequency and depth of on-site monitoring is determined by two things:

- **The relative complexity** of the project. Simple projects should require only a single visit, while complex projects will likely necessitate multiple on-site visits; and
- **The relative level of risk** associated with the project.

The timing of on-site visits will be scheduled by OSP staff at critical points in the project. Here is the chronology of an on-site visit:

- Scheduled in advance with the CEO of the grantee and project administrator.
- Entrance interview conducted to reiterate purpose of visit and to outline files and documentation needed.
- CD Rep reviews grantee files for consistency and compliance.
- Exit interview conducted to provide tentative summary of visit results. Grantee can provide additional information and/or clarification at this juncture.
- Within 30 days of the monitoring visit, grantee will receive a formal monitoring results letter.
- A *finding of non-compliance* is a violation that must be remedied. For each finding, OSP will determine if a corrective action, either to correct a past problem or to avoid future problems, must be taken by the grantee.
- If required corrective action is not addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, OSP may impose progressive sanctions ranging from additional reporting to suspension of funding, additional special conditions, return of misspent funds, termination of the grant or even legal action.
- The monitoring letter may also include identification of *concerns*. These are matters that, if not properly addressed, can become a finding and can ultimately result in sanctions. *Concerns* act as an "early warning system" to point out operational or management problems, or patterns of performance that could lead to larger problems later. The grantee may be required to respond to *concerns.*